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Sen. Rodríguez statement on passage of HB 910, the open carry bill

Austin - Sen. José Rodríguez released the following statement on H.B. 910, the open carry bill, which was quickly passed this evening:

HB 910, which allows for the open display of handguns in Texas, passed abruptly tonight. The ordinary process would have been to hear the bill tomorrow. However, the rules were suspended, successfully allowing the proponents to pass the bill tonight.

Yesterday, during an interview, I said that if given the opportunity, I would filibuster the bill. By securing the minimum 21 votes needed to suspend the rules, unexpectedly and quickly, there was no meaningful opportunity for debate.

I continue to believe this is a bad law, and I voted no. It's simple; I do not believe the proliferation of handguns in public spaces, which have no purpose other than to injure or kill, is good policy. This is not the kind of civil society we want, and it is not one to which we should succumb. I will continue to oppose gun proliferation policies.

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.